

## **Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine Coalition Meeting Summary June 21, 2007**

### **I. Welcome & Announcements. Coalition Overview**

Jesse Delmar, Chief of Police for the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation welcomed coalition members to Ft. McDowell. Chief Delmar spoke of his work as a National Fellow with the FBI and spoke of the importance of communities working to find answers within their own communities instead of relying on the government to provide the answers.

Brent Stockwell also welcomed participants and reviewed the packet of materials participants received when they signed in. Brent highlighted the three subcommittee meetings on June 26<sup>th</sup> and announced that the next community meeting would be on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Scottsdale Community College. He explained the purpose of the Coalition Progress Report and the ID theft flyer and how people could sign up for the coalition if they were not already on the mailing list.

### **II. Update On Statewide Anti-Meth Initiative Efforts**

Tonya Brown, Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Policy

Tonya Brown gave an overview of the Governor's Anti-Meth Initiative, which began about one and a half years ago. In Phase I, 22 coalitions across the state received \$20,000 each to conduct a needs assessment and develop plans in their communities to combat the meth problem at the local level. In Phase II, these same coalitions received \$30,000 to help implement their plans with the caveat that no more than \$3,000 could be spent on media campaigns. Tonya regularly hears updates on the progress of the 22 coalitions. Some coalitions are fully formed and really involved and some coalitions are still forming. One of her roles is to get information out about what the coalitions are doing.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, *A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona* was released by the Governor's Office. This plan came out of the work of the Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine. There are ten priority recommendations and a total of 23 recommendations adopted by the Task Force. The Governor will receive a progress report on the ten priority recommendations every 90 days.

At this point, there is hope that there will be Phase III funding available for coalitions next year; however the amount is unknown. Phase III will focus on how to address sustainability issues.

### **III. Discussion of Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation's Efforts to Reduce Methamphetamine Use**

Gwen Bahe, a member of the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation spoke about the community's efforts to reduce methamphetamine use. Gwen stated that the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation was invited by the White Mountain Apache community to share what they were doing to address the methamphetamine problem. To prepare for the presentation, representatives from all the departments came together to discuss what they were doing. They put together a four and a half hour presentation and held the attention of 150 people.

Gwen had been on the Tribal Council for 14 years. One of the Council's roles is to assure that the community lives in a safe environment. The Tribal Council committed to put a stop to the drug problem in the community. They were threatened and had to have police protection, but they adopted a zero tolerance policy for drug and alcohol abuse. They made sure the police and the courts carried out the laws. They had to recognize that the policy had far-reaching impacts. It affected housing, day care employees and children, and Parks and Recreation.

One of the keys to success is that you have to agree and admit there is a problem. You cannot hide it or it will find you. The Council passed the necessary ordinances and proclamations. There also had to be strenuous enforcement of the laws and policies across the board. There could be no playing favorites for certain families.

Every employee is drug tested when they are hired and there is random drug testing not just for a few people, but for everyone. The Tribal Council is the first one to be tested. In the summer youth program, youth are drug tested every week. If they test positive, they are counseled and allowed to come back the next week. It sends the message that the adults believe in them. Kids used to be dismissed from the program and they lost more and more kids. Now they come back, stay clean and earn a paycheck. They have 68 kids in the program. There is also a Yavapai White Bison group that teaches families what to do with kids around drugs and goes through family values from a cultural perspective.

Gwen ended her presentation by introducing three young people who were meth users and have been sober for nine months or more.

### **IV. Update On Subcommittee Activity**

Brent Stockwell introduced one of the co-chairs from each of the three subcommittees. He explained how participants could sign up to participate on a subcommittee. All three subcommittees are meeting on

Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Each co-chair gave a brief description of their subcommittee's work.

## **V. Participant Questions**

Brent asked participants for any outstanding questions they had about methamphetamine that they might like to have addressed at a community meeting. One woman emphasized the need to access resources for mental illness. Some people begin using drugs to medicate their untreated mental illness because they can't get mental health help they need.

Participants raised three issues:

- Would like a presentation by the DEA/Border Patrol on how drugs are moving into and through the country.
- Would like to hear about documented evidence-based treatment practices and as a parent how do you decide what kind of treatment to choose.
- Would like to hear about the violence associated with meth use especially toward a family trying to get their family member out of the meth culture.